

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

In FIG 14, figures 14(d) and 14(e) are deleted.

Attachment: One (1) Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 1 and 12-15 to further clarify the invention and to cure minor informalities.

Claims 7 and 11 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 8 is amended for conformity therewith and claims 2-4 to cure minor informalities. The specification and figures are amended to cure minor informalities. No new matter is being added.

I. Preliminary Matters

As preliminary matters, Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim to foreign priority and for indicating receipt of the certified copy of the priority document. Applicant also thanks the Examiner for returning the initialed forms PTO/SB/08 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statements filed on January 3, 2005 and March 29, 2007.

II. Summary of the Office Action

The Examiner objected to the drawings and the specification. The Examiner rejected claims 7 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph and claims 1-4 and 11-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 1-3, 6-9, 12, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and claims 4, 5, 10, 11, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

III. Objections to the Drawings

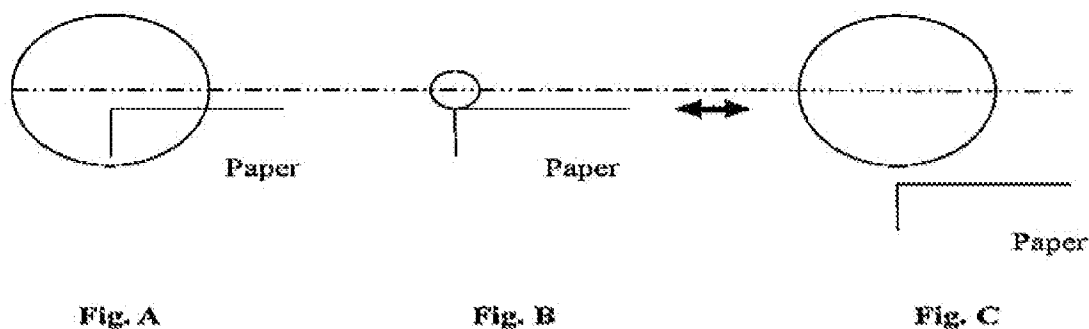
The Examiner objected to Fig. 11 for a minor informality and Figs. 14(d) and 14(e) for being redundant. Applicant has amended the description of Fig. 11 (second full paragraph on page 31 of the specification) and deleted redundant Figs. 14(d) and 14(e). A replacement sheet for Fig. 14 is accompanying this Response. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the

Examiner to withdraw these objections to the drawings in view of these self-explanatory claim amendments being made herein. No new matter is being added.

IV. Objections to the Specification

The Examiner objected to the Abstract of Disclosure and portions of the specification for minor informalities. The Abstract of Disclosure and the specification have been amended to cure the minor informalities noted by the Examiner. No new matter is being added.

In addition, Applicant respectfully notes that in an exemplary embodiment, the electric signal measuring section 66 is at the normal measuring accuracy, as shown in Fig. A below. That is, a spot of light is irradiated from a light emitting member to detect the paper P. The electric signal measuring section 66 can be in a state where it has difficulty to detect the light irradiated onto the print paper P, as shown in Fig. B below. The spot in Fig. A is larger than the spot in Fig. B because in Fig. B, the electric signal measuring section 66 is in a state where it has difficulty to detect the light irradiated onto the print paper P. By reducing a power of light emitting member, the spot in Fig. B is made to be smaller than the spot in Fig. A. In Fig. A, the spot overlaps with the paper, and the light irradiated onto the print paper P is detected. On the other hand, in Fig. B, the spot does not overlap with the paper, and the light irradiated onto the print paper P is not detected (the light irradiated onto the platen is detected). When the print head 36 is moved in the sub-scanning direction, the light irradiated onto the print paper P is also not detected, as shown in Fig. C. With regard to sensitivity, Fig. C is equivalent to Fig. B.



It will be appreciated that the foregoing remarks relate to the invention in a general sense, the remarks are not necessarily limitative of any claims and are intended only to help the Examiner better understand an exemplary embodiment described in the specification.

In view of the self-explanatory amendments to the specification and exemplary comments provided above, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw these grounds of objections. No new matter is being added.

V. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claims 7 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Applicant has canceled claims 7 and 11, rendering these rejections moot.

VI. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-4 and 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claim 11 has been canceled, rendering the rejection with respect to this claim moot. With respect to the remaining claims, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw these grounds of rejections in view of the self-explanatory amendments being made herein. No new matter is being added.

VII. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 6-9, 12, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 60257279 to Noda (hereinafter “Noda”). Applicant respectfully traverses these grounds of rejection at least in view of the following exemplary comments.

Independent claim 1 *inter alia* recites: “in case that an upper end, among an upper right end and an upper left end of said medium to be printed, that is on a side opposite from a side where said detection section is positioned is leading by at least a set amount at said detection position, causing said transporting section to transport said medium to be printed from said detection position in a direction opposite from said predetermined direction, causing said medium to be printed to be transported in said predetermined direction up to the detection position where said detection section detects said medium to be printed, then causing said medium to be printed to be transported by a predetermined amount in said predetermined direction from said detection position; and in case that an upper end, among the upper right end and the upper left end of said medium to be printed, that is on the side where said detection section is positioned is leading at said detection position, causing said medium to be printed to be transported by said transporting section in said predetermined direction from said detection position by said predetermined amount without causing said transporting section to transport said medium to be printed from said detection position in the direction opposite from said predetermined direction.”

In an exemplary, non-limiting embodiment, it is disclosed that in one case the medium is fed backward and in another case, it is not fed backwards.

Noda discloses detecting the present or absence of a paper by providing a paper-detecting means on a surface of a carriage moved in parallel to the platen which surface is opposed to the

platen. Specifically, Noda discloses that the paper is returned in the direction of an arrow F1 until the moment immediately before the output signal from the sensor 13 is “0” and that from the sensor 14 is “1” (*see* Abstract). In Noda, however, the medium is always fed backwards no matter which end is leading. In other words, Noda does not disclose or suggests moving the medium backward in one case and not moving the medium backward *e.g.*, moving the medium forward, in another case.

For at least these exemplary reasons, claim 1 is patentably distinguishable from (and is patentable over) Noda. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw this rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims 2, 3, 6, 8, and 9.

Next, independent claims 12 and 15 recite features similar to, although not necessarily coextensive with, the features argued above with respect to claim 1. Therefore, arguments presented with respect to claim 1 are respectfully submitted to apply with equal force here. For at least substantially analogous exemplary reasons, therefore, independent claims 12 and 15 are patentably distinguishable from (and are patentable over) Noda.

VIII. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 4, 5, 10, 11, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Noda in view of JP 04021482 to Oguchi (hereinafter “Oguchi”). Applicant respectfully traverses these grounds of rejection at least in view of the following exemplary comments.

Claims 4, 5, and 10 depend on claim 1. Applicant has already demonstrated that Noda does not meet all the requirements of independent claim 1. Oguchi does not compensate for the above-identified deficiencies of Noda. Together, the combined teachings of these references would not have (and could not have) led the artisan of ordinary skill to have achieved the subject

matter of claim 1. Since claims 4, 5, and 10 depend on claim 1, they are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Claim 11 has been cancelled, rendering this rejection moot.

Independent claim 13 recite features similar to, although not necessarily coextensive with, the features argued above with respect to claim 1. Therefore, arguments presented with respect to claim 1 are respectfully submitted to apply with equal force here. Oguchi does not compensate for the above-identified deficiencies of Noda. For at least substantially analogous exemplary reasons, therefore, independent claim 13 is patentable over Noda in view of Oguchi.

IX. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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